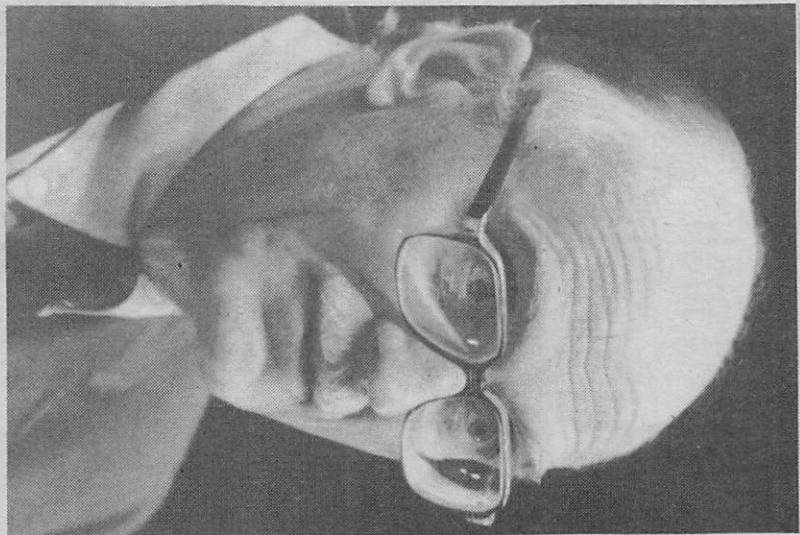


Matheson says volunteers are vital — particularly to firefighting in Utah



By Mandy Jean Woods
Deseret News correspondent

SPRINGVILLE — If community service volunteers in Utah were to be paid for their efforts, the state budget for its employees would have to be doubled.

"In 1978, during my first year in office, an intern did a survey on voluntarism in Utah. He excluded all religious voluntarism and found that the number of hours volunteers put in was equal to the amount of money we pay all of our state employees — which, by the way, is about \$1 million per day," said former Gov. Scott M. Matheson.

He was the keynote speaker at the opening meeting of the Utah State Firemen's Convention, which will continue through Saturday in Springville.

Matheson commended the volunteer firefighters, saying, "We could not maintain the integrity of protecting our property without the volunteers."

The state's unique geographical divisions, with 84 percent of the population along the Wasatch Front and 16 percent spread throughout rural areas, requires a unique partnership, he said.

"That solution is volunteer firefighters working with paid firefighters jointly and cooperatively."

Matheson said voluntarism is a vital part of the democratic system.

"The democratic process under which we live is the theory behind the government process. Thomas Jefferson believed we each have an obligation as

part of our membership in this society, to perform public service.

"There is lots of commitment in Utah. Voluntarism is growing by 10 percent a year," he said. "The volunteer firefighters are equal in responsibility to the full-time employees. What we have is a special relationship one to another and to our system and to our communities. That's the kind of glue that will keep us together," he said.

He praised firefighters for the excellent and prompt way they handled a recent fire in Salt Lake City that demolished part of a city block. Matheson twice received standing ovations from the audience.

Novel "Nick" Estep, chief of the Tremonton Fire Department and outgoing president of the Utah State Firemen's Association, said the number of volunteer firefighters far exceeds the number of full-time firefighters.

"All the volunteers get out of their service is the satisfaction of helping save lives and property," he said. "The pay is very little."

Of the 81 fire departments in Utah, more than 60 percent are represented at among the 700 attending the convention, said Estep.

"I commend you for your devotion to duty and appreciate the many hours of service you provide the communities throughout the state," wrote Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, in a letter that was read at the meeting.

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Friday, June 13, 1986

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s suggested by David B. Magleby, an associate at Brigham Young University and spokesman for ity. He said that if the old plan is followed, a lawsuit challenging the environmental impact statement.

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cuts off access to recreation areas.

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Provo Mayor Joe Jenkins and Orem May-
or Blaine Willes said the present road is un-
acceptable, but they are concerned about the
safety of the proposed UDOT plan. Willes
suggested the governor get some outside ex-
perts to review the plan and agreed to go
along with whatever the outside group sug-
gests.

Wilkes said he has confidence in UDOT
employees, but because they are so closely
involved with the project maybe they aren't
willing to make some changes.

Bangerter is faced with making a quick
decision because bids on the project are ex-
pected to be submitted June 15.

mit County Commission Stan Leavitt fa-
vored the new UDOT proposal and don't
want any more study because the Provo
Canyon road issue has been studied for nearly
20 years.

In answer to a question about placing a
sign in the canyon encouraging interstate
trucks to use I-80 and Parleys Canyon in-
stead of Provo Canyon, Donald S. Coleman,
assistant Utah attorney general, said trucks
constitute only 12 percent of the canyon traf-
fic.

Without researching the issue, Coleman
believes it would amount to discrimination
to force certain trucks to bypass the canyon.

Janice Reeb, representing Citizens for a
Safe and Scenic Canyon, said the four-lane
concept was not properly addressed in the
EIS. Unless truck traffic can be scaled back,
she favors the two-lane highway with only 30
percent passing lanes.

Beyond the controversial section of the
highway, the UDOT plan calls for main-
taining an improved two-lane highway through
the narrows essentially on the same alignment.
From Wildwood to Heber City, UDOT

If you think you have it tough, try journalism

The newspaper business is not a place for
wimps.

If you happen to be a whiner, Republican,
Democrat, crybaby, are fond of yourself or take
offense to insults, don't even think about writing
for a newspaper.

Also, if you ever have dreamed of making a
lot of money and being famous and rubbing el-
bows with beautiful people, you'd be better off
selling used cars.

First of all, if you write for a newspaper,
people always are blaming you for writing
down what other people say.